

Lewin

February 26, 1958

Dear Joyce:

Surely you can answer this question for me better than anyone else. Is there any evidence of compounds containing ~~Si-As~~ -Si-C- linkages in any biological system? One would suppose that one ought to look for them in your diatoms. Has anyone looked very hard?


On the same tack, you told me once you thought there might be some other silicate esters involved in frustular synthesis. Has there been any explicit evidence for them?

How have the Lewins survived the winter? As I am sure you gathered, we had a grand time in Australia—you'd go mad over the algology that needs to be done & there can hardly be a more appealing place for any sort of marine biology than the Barrier Reef.

Any chance of your travelling through these parts in the next months? We'll be at home most of the time between now and mid-July/ I don't think we're likely to get to Woods Hole for some time.

I should mention that our 1956 collection of algae is hanging right in front of me now (in the study at home) and I ~~just~~ still get a lot of pleasure at looking at Ceramium elegans.

Yours,


Joshua Lederberg

P.S. Do you or Ralph know anything about the symbiotic algae supposedly responsible for the lovely green and purple colors of the mantle of the large clams in tropical waters? (Maybe Yonge says something about it in his Year on the Barrier Reef—do you have a copy; I haven't seen it yet.)